

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/726,710

Applicant(s)

GOTO, YOSHIHIRO

Examiner

Abolfazi Tabatabai

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed on December 4, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on December 4, 2003. These drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on February 7, 2007, in order to overcome the obviousness of double patenting rejection with the respect to parent application serial No. 10/312,779 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest image diagnosis supporting device comprises (a) fixing a display position of the abnormal candidate shadow extracted by said extracting means on a predetermined area of a display screen of said display means, and control-display means for shifting a display position of said medical image so that said abnormal candidate shadow is displayed on the predetermined area of the display screen of said display means, fixed by said fixing means, and control -displaying the medical image including said abnormal candidate shadow in combination into other features and elements of claim 1; (b) detecting a display position of an abnormal candidate shadow immediately following the medical image that is currently displayed when said medical images are sequentially displayed on said display means while

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changing a slice position at which said medical images are adjacent to each other in combination into other features and elements of claims 10 and 26; (c) designating a display area in said medical image where an abnormal candidate shadow existed after sequentially displaying said medical images on said display means while changing a slice position at which said medical images are adjacent each other; means for retrieving a medical image of which the display area is identical in position to the display area designated by said designating means, of said sequentially displayed medical images in combination into other features and elements of claim 19.

4. Claims 1-34 are allowed.

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Taguchi et al (U S 5,807,256) disclose medical information processing system for supporting diagnosis.

Takahashi et al (U S 6,272,244 B1) disclose methods for extractions and recognition of pattern in an image method for image abnormality judging, and memory medium with image processing programs.

Tsuyuki (U S 6,782,071 B1) discloses multi-slice x-ray computed tomography apparatus.

Contact Information

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-7458.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached at (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

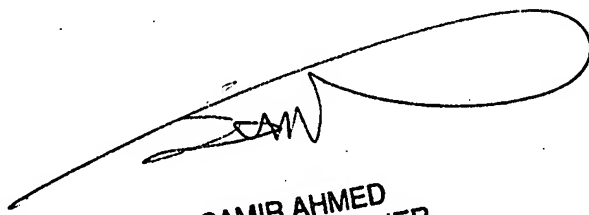
Abolfazl Tabatabai

Patent Examiner

Technology Division 2624

February 20, 2007

A-Tabatabai



**SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER**